

The law makes certain that the richest Nation in this great world of ours never again turns its back on the despair, helplessness, and many times hopelessness and suffering of the least among us. It guarantees no insurance company will ever again be putting a pricetag on human life.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator GRASSLEY be allocated 45 minutes of the Republican time during the debate on H.R. 3606.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### JOBS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, later today the Senate will take up and attempt to pass the JOBS Act. So we find ourselves once again on the cusp of passing a bipartisan jobs package that will make it easier for entrepreneurs and innovators to get the capital they need to build businesses and create jobs.

As I said yesterday, this bill had overwhelming bipartisan support over in the House. Nearly 400 Members voted for it, and the President himself says it will create jobs. He supports it, and he would sign it when we get it to him.

Yet for some reason some in the Democratic-controlled Senate seem intent on slowing it down. Others want to essentially take a step actually backward and undermine a critical provision sponsored by Senators TOOMEY, CARPER, and HUTCHISON included in the House bill, and that was just this week, endorsed by the SEC's Forum on Small Business Capital Formation. The Reed amendment could subject thousands of businesses to SEC regulation unnecessarily, and the Senate should reject it.

So, once again, I ask them to reconsider. Let's put politics aside and pocket this important bipartisan jobs bill.

The JOBS Act is a great example of the type of legislation we should all be able to agree on, and there is simply no good reason for delay. Let's get this

done. Let's get it to the President's desk and have him sign it into law.

#### HEALTH CARE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday I outlined a number of the broken promises we have seen in connection with the new ObamaCare law: from the promise of being able to keep the plan you have and like, to the promise of protecting Medicare, to the promise of lowering premiums, to the promise of lowering health care costs. Democrats also said taxes would not go up and existing conscience protections would be respected.

Looking back, it seems like there was not anything our Democratic friends, including the President, were not willing to promise in order to get the bill across the finish line. But there is another category of disappointments too; that is, in all the aspects of this bill Democrats did not even talk about before it passed.

We all remember when Speaker PELOSI famously said: We have to pass this bill so we can find out what is in it. One of the things Americans found out about was something called the IPAB—the Independent Payment Advisory Board. This is an unelected, unaccountable board of bureaucrats empowered by this law to make additional cuts to Medicare based on arbitrary cost control targets. As a result of this new board, 15 bureaucrats would now have the power—without any accountability whatsoever—to make changes to Medicare.

What is more, there is no judicial or administrative review of IPAB personnel or recommendations. In other words, they are accountable to no one. IPAB is not answerable to voters, and it cannot be challenged in the courts.

Its main role, as the Wall Street Journal editorial board put it, will be “the inevitable dirty work of denying care”—“the inevitable dirty work of denying care.”

In an effort to control spending, IPAB will limit patient access to medical care. It is that simple and, frankly, it is totally unacceptable.

Republicans recognize the problem with Medicare spending and the need for reform. We also recognize that IPAB is not the answer.

This is just one more reason ObamaCare needs to be repealed and replaced, and that is why even Democrats are cosponsoring a bill to repeal it over in the House, calling it “a flawed policy that will risk beneficiary access to care.” So this is not just a Republican issue; there is strong bipartisan opposition to this new law.

Look, if the President himself does not even want to talk about this law anymore, and even Democrats in the House are sponsoring repeal of parts of their own law, it should be pretty obvious there is a fundamental problem.

We need to reform health care. But this reform made things worse. The evidence and broken promises are all

around us. It is time the President acknowledged it, and it is time the two parties came together and did something about it.

It is time to repeal ObamaCare and replace it with the kind of common-sense reforms Americans want—reforms that actually lower costs and which put health care back in the hands of individuals and their doctors rather than bureaucrats in Washington.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half.

The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

#### AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. HARKIN. Again, Mr. President, tomorrow we celebrate the second anniversary of the signing of the affordable care act into law. Our Democratic leader, Senator REID, in his opening remarks today, outlined the tremendous progress we have made. I listened to the comments made by our distinguished Republican leader, and all I heard was: Repeal ObamaCare, repeal ObamaCare.

But I never heard what they want to replace it with. They just want to go back to the old system where the insurance companies ran everything before, where people were thrown off their policies because they had an illness, where because of preexisting conditions people could not get health care coverage, where we had this big doughnut hole which we are now closing for the elderly?

The one aspect I want to focus on this morning in my brief time is an extraordinary element of the affordable care act that is not being talked about a lot but which members of the committee I now am privileged to chair, the HELP Committee, worked so hard to include in the affordable care act; that is, the array of provisions that promote wellness, disease prevention, and public health.

Taken together, these provisions have begun to jump-start America's transformation into a genuine wellness society. They are transforming our current sick care system into a true health care system. I have said this many times: We do not have a health care system in America. We have a sick